

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases comprising:

a columnar body comprising porous ceramic and having a plurality of through holes extending in parallel with one another in a length direction of the columnar body, the columnar body having a wall portion interposed between the through holes and configured to filter particulates in exhaust gases; and

a plurality of plugs filling ones of the through holes at one end of the columnar body and filling ones of the through holes at the other end of the columnar body,

wherein the columnar body has a three-point bending strength  $F\alpha$  (MPa) measured in accordance with JISR1601, the plurality of plugs has a length  $L$  (mm) in the length direction, and the columnar body and the plurality of plugs are formed such that the three-point bending strength  $F\alpha$  (MPa) and the length  $L$  (mm) are adjusted to satisfy the relationship of  $F\alpha \times L \geq 30$ .

Claim 2 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the three-point bending strength  $F\alpha$  (MPa) and the length  $L$  (mm) satisfy the relationship of  $30 \leq F\alpha \times L \leq 200$ .

Claim 3 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising a catalyst provided in the columnar body.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by a back washing process.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and

removes the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by the heated exhaust gases.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, further comprising a catalyst provided in the columnar body.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by a back washing process.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by a back washing process.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by a back washing process.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by the heated exhaust gases.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by the heated exhaust gases.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated in the wall portion by the heated exhaust gases.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body comprises a plurality of porous ceramic members and an adhesive layer comprising a sealing material and joining the plurality of porous ceramic members.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 13, wherein the three-point bending strength  $F\alpha$  (MPa) and the length L (mm) satisfy the relationship of  $30 \leq F\alpha \times L \leq 200$ .